

## Claims

1. A method for providing a text message to a user in a communications system, the method comprising the steps of:
  - establishing communications with the communications system from a user device;
  - selectively coupling to a speech-to-text server that converts speech to text;
  - the speech-to-text server converting speech from the user device to a text message; and
  - the speech-to-text server storing the text message.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of sending the text message to a user device.
3. The method of claim 2 further comprising the step of retrieving the text message.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the step of retrieving further includes the options to save, delete, forward, or convert to speech.
6. A telecommunications network that provides speech-to-text processing, the telecommunications network comprising:
  - a network access device coupled to the telecommunications network;
  - a voicemail system coupled to the telecommunications network to store audio messages; and
  - an application processor coupled to the voicemail system to receive voicemail messages and convert the voicemail messages to text.
7. The network of claim 6 wherein the text is sent to a destination over a packet-based network.

8. The network of claim 7 wherein the text is sent as one of a facsimile transmission, an email, and a Web page posting.

5 9. A method for receiving text messages in a telecommunications network, the method comprising the steps of:  
receiving an incoming call;  
determining whether to receive voice or a text message in response to the incoming call;  
receiving a voice message from a user device coupled to the  
10 telecommunications network;  
converting the voice message to a text message corresponding to the voice message; and  
sending the text message to a user device.

15 10. The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of:  
after determining whether to receive voice or text in response to the incoming call, sending an indication to a user device that a text message is desired in response to the incoming call;  
receiving a direct text message from the user device in response to the  
20 indication; and  
sending the direct text message to a user device;

11. The method of claim 10 wherein the direct text message is sent to the user device based upon a user device profile.

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12. The method of claim 10 wherein sending the direct text message includes sending one of an email, a facsimile, and an electronic message.